

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 AID-20 EB-11 /140 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4169
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, CT, FR

SUBJECT: BOKASSA'S RECENT TRIP TO FRANCE

REF: BANGUI 692

1. BANGUI RADIO HAS BEEN BROADCASTING LAST FEW DAYS AN APPARENTLY OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S TRIP TO FRANCE JUNE 2-10. ACCOUNT GENERALLY FOLLOWS LINE ESTABLISHED BY BOKASSA HIMSELF IN INTERVIEW ON HIS RETURN (REFTEL). MAJOR POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

2. ACCOUNT PROCLAIMED STRONG AND FRIENDLY FRANCO- CAR TIES BUT CITED COMPORTMENT OF " CERTAIN PERSONNEL" OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHO ENGAGE IN SUBVERSION. SAID CAR LEADER MUST DENOUNCE THESE FALSE FRIENDS BUT THAT SUCH PERSONAL COMPORTMENT SHOULD NOT UPSET BASICALLY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, NOTED THIS IS WHY APPOINTMENT NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR WELL- RECEIVED AND AUGURS WELL FOR NEW IMPULSION IN FRANCO- CAR RELATIONS. COMMENT: THIS OF COURSE REFERS TO BOKASSA'S MAY 23 SPEECH DENOUNCING FRENCH EMBASSY HERE FOR SUBVERSION AND INDICATES FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR GIOVANGRANDI WAS IN FACT TARGET OF ACCUSATION.

3. ACCOUNT NOTES RE ECONOMIC AID THAT DROUGHT AND LOW WATER IN RIVER THIS YEAR CAUSED SUPPLY AND ELECTRICAL SHORTAGES IN CAR, AND
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IT WAS TOO BAD GREAT POWERS HAD NOT TAKEN NOTE OF THIS BEFORE.
SAID IT HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES.
MADE POINT THAT THIS IS ALL MORE REASON FOR CAR TO HAVE ACCESS TO
SEA, AND " REAL FRIENDS" WILL BE THOSE WHO HELP CONSTRUCT RAILROAD.
HOWEVER, IMPROVEMENTS IN RIVER AND ROAD FACILITIES SHOULD NOT BE
IGNORED IN MEANTIME. ALSO ON AID, FRENCH ASSISTANCE FOR OCAM
SUMMIT NOTED, AS WELL AS DISCUSSION WITH AIR FRANCE RE PURCHASE
OF A LONG- RANGE AIRCRAFT AND MAINTENANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL CARAVELLE.

4. ACCOUNT NOTED MINISTERS MAIDOU AND DALLOT- BEFFIO HAD JUST RET-
URNED FROM US AND WERE THERE WITH BOKASSA AND HAD " CROSSED IN THE
HALLS" US AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WHO HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED BY
PRESIDENT (NO FURTHER DETAILS ON THIS GIVEN).

. BOKASSA' S MEETINGS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN
ALSO RECOUNTED, NOTABLY GUSCARB ESTAINR, FOCCART AND DENIAU, AS
WELL AS ROTHSCHILD.

6. FINALLY, ACCOUNT DESCRIBES JOURNALIST (ALAIN LE MAY?) WHO HAD
EVIDENTLY WRITTEN DEFAMATORY ARTICLE ON BOKASSA IN NOVEMBER 1971
AND WHO THIS TIME CAME TO PLEAD ON HIS KNEES FOR BOKASSA' S FORGI-
VENESS. HE WAS RECEIVED BY ONE OF MINISTERS BUT NOT BOKASSA, WHO
IS STILL PRESSING SUIT AGAINST NEWSPAPER (LE MEILLEUR?). LE MAY
APPARENTLY CONFESSED TO WRITING LIES ABOUT BOKASSA AND ACCORDING
TO RADIO ACCOUNT SAID SOURCE OF WRONG INFO HAD BEEN CERTAIN OTHER
CHIEFS OF STATE " WHO WILL NOT BE MENTIONED HERE" BUT WHO PLAY
THE " COLONIALIST" GAME.

7. COMMENT: ACCOUNT SEEMS DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY SUCCESS IN EVERY WAY
OF BOKASSA' S TRIP AND PERHAPS ALSO TO OFFSET FURTHER THE EFFECTS
HERE OF HIS MAY 23 SPEECH. IMPRESSION GIVEN IS THAT EVERYTHING NOW
IS FINE WITH FRENCH AND COOPERATION PROCEEDING APACE.
ROSENTHAL

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